

Brecht Stables & Dustin's Place

Therapeutic Riding and Lead Line Lessons

Why Dustin's Place Has Begun-

Welcome to the first bimonthly news letter for Dustin's Place

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Dustin's Place was started because of my son, Dustin who was born with Down Syndrome. Like many parents of children with Special Needs, I was frustrated with the way doctors had put my son in a small, nonfunctional box. I was painfully aware of the future that my son was headed towards, but mostly, I learned quite quickly about the price of all the extra "things" that my child needed.

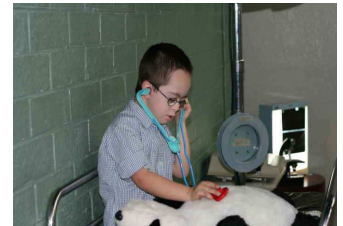
When I was 20 years old, I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy... soon after, the doctor came in to tell me about what my son would NOT be able to do with his life. Consequently, that doctor crushed a young mothers dream. After open heart surgery, lots of medication, RSV, pneumonia and bronchitis multiple times and a few rounds of ear tubes, here we sit- proving all of those doctors wrong :)

After owning my own horse, it was a natural thought to buy my son a pony when I felt that he was ready. In 2008, Nemo became a part of our family. At first, my son loved to brush him, but was very afraid to ride and would literally try to bail off of the saddle while we were walking. With consistent work, my son started to love Nemo and wanted to ride almost every day. At the end of 2008, Dustin had started trotting on Nemo on a lead line and entered their first horse show together at a local open show circuit with his able bodied peers.

It still amazes me every day of the confidence that Nemo has brought out in my son. Not only the confidence, but improved balance, small and large motor skills as well as just truly being proud of himself that he has succeeded at something that he loves doing.

THAT is why "Dustin's Place" has begun...

"Using today- to make tomorrow better"



The History of Therapeutic Horse Back Riding-

Therapeutic Riding started in Europe in the 1950's. The achievements of Lis Hartel have been coined as the founding movement of Therapeutic Riding all over the world. Hartel, who not only became the first woman to win metals in the 1952 and 1956 Summer Olympics in Dressage, she was also paralyzed from the knees down as a result of Polio. Hartel passed away in February, 2009 at the age of 87. To learn more of Hartel's achievements, please see <http://simplymarvelous.wordpress.com/2009/02/23/lis-hartel-danish-equestrian-legend-dies/>. As a result of Hartel's achievements, therapeutic riding programs were started in Europe.

Noticing the impact that horse back riding had on disabled individuals, the U.S. and Canada also started their own therapeutic Riding centers. The first was "Community Association of Riding for the Disabled" (CARD) in Toronto, Ontario and "Cheff Center for the Handicapped" in Augusta, Michigan. In November of 1969, about 20 individuals came together in Middleberg, VA. and started brain storming ideas for an official therapeutic riding organization this organization became known as the North American Riding for the Handicapped or NARHA. Since the organization in 1966, NARHA has more then 800 centers throughout North American and Canada and accommodates more then 42,000 people with special needs.



Lis Hartel riding Jubilee, who she won the 1952 and 1956 Olympics on.

Wish List

- Velcro pieces
- Felt animals
- Squishy toys
- Plastic poles
- Plastic pool rings
- Small action figures
- Velcro Baseball mitt w balls
- Large clothes pins



The Importance of Volunteering-

Without volunteers, therapeutic riding could not be as beneficial as it is to our children. Whether you are being a side walker or leading the horse, volunteering is just as important. By volunteering, you are helping to improve a child's life. Right now, I normally need the help of the child's mother or father to be my horse leader, but my hope for the very near future is to use volunteers so that my lesson parents can sit back and watch their children learn and develop a love for horse back riding. Please see the "Events" section for volunteering opportunities.

Events for July and August-

July 11th, 2009- Dustin's Birthday Party

Please join us for the party from 10am-1pm at the barn to celebrate Dustin's 8th birthday!

There will be free pony rides with lead and side walkers, also free hot dogs, hamburgers, pop and water.

Unfortunately, all lessons will have to be rescheduled that normally take place on this date. Please contact me to reschedule the lessons.

July 18th, 2009- Volunteer Day 3PM

Please join us for the monthly volunteer orientation. At this time, we will discuss volunteering opportunities and what is expected of each volunteer.

August 15th, 2009- Volunteer Day 3PM

Please join us for the monthly volunteer orientation. At this time, we will discuss volunteering opportunities and what is expected of each volunteer.



News-

FaceBook account-

Brecht Stables has its very own FaceBook account!

Simply type "Brecht Stables & Dustin's Place" into the search bar and you should be able to find us. If there are any problems, please let me know.

Free riding lesson for all referrals-

One free riding lesson for referring other students to the program. You can receive the free lesson AFTER the referred student has signed up and paid for one months worth of lessons with Dustin's Place.

New website-

Please feel free to check out our new website at www.brechtstables.org
Tell your friends!!



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Dustin's Place was founded in 2009 in the name of my son with Down Syndrome. The program was started with one little Shetland Pony and one student. Our mission statement of "Using today- to make tomorrow better" fits perfectly and explains that we need to use each and every day to strive for tomorrow. Every word expressed, hug given and push to achieve, gives our children a better chance for the future. Therapeutic Riding gives children a different avenue towards every day therapy. Please visit my website and call or email to set up either a Therapeutic Riding lesson for a special needs child or a lead line lesson for all other children under the age of ten.

"Using today- to make tomorrow better"

Useful Links for Parents-

We're on the web!!!!
www.brechtstables.org

North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA) -

<http://www.narha.org/>

NARHA is the first Therapeutic Riding organization. On their site, you can find a wealth of information on Therapeutic Riding, volunteering and also different types of equine assisted activities.

Band of Angels- <http://www.bandofangels.com/>

Band of Angels is a foundation, established in 1994 that promotes awareness of children with disabilities. Band of Angel's also sells calendars, stationary, jewelry and apparel.

